



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

# Chairman's Newsletter

Number 15. July, 1982.

## STATE-OF-THE-SOCIETY REPORT.

Our membership count at this writing is 231, and if past experience tells us anything, we'll probably be at 250 or more by year's end. A new plateau in the offing. We held off reporting those members who did not pay their 1982 dues and whose membership was in question, and it turned out that some did pay, however tardily. A few, however, did not, and we're obliged to revoke their membership. Please remove from your membership cards the following: Don Anderson, Ulrich Brand, H. L. Daneman, Gail Halpern, Paulo Herkenhoff, Douglas Magee, Suzanne Rozsa-Lovett, Christopher Steele, and Gerard Turner.

At the same time, add the enclosed cards for our newest members, all of whom are most welcome into our ranks. And finally, due to a clerical mixup, we inadvertantly treated Graham Forsdyke as a resignee when in actuality he continues as a most active member. Therefore, if you've removed his membership card, we're providing you with another. Sorry about that, Graham.

## CONVENTION, '83!

It's definite, and based on the preliminary response, looks like it will attract a big turnout. The time is early May, the place is Stuttgart/Balingen, Germany, and the convention

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"impresario" is long-standing member Utz Schmidt. For those who are recent members, you might like to know that this is ISASC's fifth convention no less, the previous four having taken place in San Francisco, London, New York City, and Delft (Holland). Each one has been a rousing success and the upcoming one should be equally so. Enclosed is a letter and reservation form from Utz, and we urge those who definitely or tentatively are planning to attend to fill out and return the form immediately so Utz can begin his program planning and reserve accommodations. In the months ahead we'll keep you informed of developments.

#### MEAD ON MEADE.

No, it's not a play on words; that's exactly what we mean. Daniel Mead, publisher of Loose Change magazine, apparently was so entranced by member Gerald "Red" Meade's collection of scales--hundreds and hundreds of them--that he devoted a full-color cover and more than 12 pages of his April '82 issue to describe it. Fascinating reading it is, and we're sure you'll find the enclosed copy of the article as engrossing as we did. Our thanks to Red Meade for bringing the article to our attention and to Dan Mead for allowing us to reproduce it.

#### GOOD NEWS FOR METROLOGY BUFFS.

By now it should be evident to all that Tod Carley, our resident Sherlock Holmes, is ever on the track of rare and coveted publications about our favorite subject, and his most recent offering to members is something special. Titled "A Short History of Weighing" and authored by L. Sanders, one-time curator of the Avery Historical Museum in Birmingham, it was originally published in 1947 but has been out of print for many years. Short though it may be (60 pages), it is profusely illustrated and exceptionally comprehensive. Its contents cover the history of scales from the very beginning--beam, bismar and steelyard--to early platform, counter, and self-indicating scales, and finally, spring and precision balances and automatic and industrial scales. A separate chapter is devoted to the weighing of coins, and an addendum describes systems of weights and measures.



With an assist from Michael Crawforth, we've secured permission to reprint it, and it is now available to members for the nominal sum of \$12 (plus \$3 additional for overseas airmail). To secure one or more, simply fill out the enclosed order card and return it with your remittance payable to ISASC.

And on that same subject -- publications, that is -- Tod, ever the sleuth, has located a copy of the W. & T. Avery Weights and Measures Catalog No. 100 for Inspectors, published in 1897. It runs about 180 pages which divide into four sections. Section I covers indoor and outdoor balances; Section II, weights of various kinds; Section III, measures of capacity and length; and Section IV, appliances and tools. In Tod's words, "It is an impressive catalog. The illustrations give it a special character and impart a strong feeling of antiquity."

As you've probably deduced, it's quite a find, and something we want to offer our members. However, to reprint this particular catalog, as large as it is, would entail considerable expense and, moreover, would necessitate a selling price of \$30 (plus \$5 for overseas airmail). Therefore, we believe it's prudent to get an expression from our membership before we commit ourselves, and to that end, regardless of whether you order the History of Weighing, we'd greatly appreciate it if you'd use the enclosed order card to let us know if you'd be a customer for the Avery catalog. If enough members respond in the affirmative, we'll go into production and provide an order card with the next EQM mailing.

#### A NEW FISCAL DEVELOPMENT.

It's been some time since we last reminded members how fortunate we've been over the years not to have had to pay for the printing of EQM, due to the generosity of several printers who do business with our firm and who charged the printing of EQM to "business promotion". However, that situation, regretfully, has run its course, and as of this midyear we're obliged to pay almost \$1,000 per issue of EQM for its printing (and that's at printer's cost).



Having established our magazine as a top-quality publication, it's our intention to keep it so, and therefore we have to budget for its printing accordingly. With that in mind, and because EQM now will represent a substantial cost, it seemed best to do a complete income/expenses projection for 1983 to see where we stand financially overall.

The results of our labor are enclosed, and as you'll note, we're facing an operating deficit for the coming year. However, our estimates have been conservative and we're hopeful that member growth will increase our income potential. Considering, also, that our assets currently are approximately \$10,000, we see no reason to contemplate a dues increase or to be unduly concerned about our near-future fiscal stability. However, an awareness of our financial outlook should give each of us a keener understanding of ISASC's operating costs and an appreciation of why our dues and catalog/book sales are such vital sources of income.

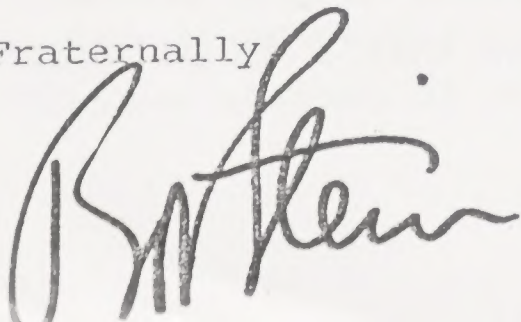
We will, of course, continue our present practice of providing members with both a mid-year and year-end financial statement, and will submit periodic fiscal projections to our membership if circumstances warrant it.

AND AS A REMINDER...

The overseas airmail charge for our library offerings--catalogs, back issues of EQM, etc.--is not required from U.S. and Canadian members, so to those of you who have included this charge in the past, please cease paying it in the future. And to all members, please make all payments for dues, catalogs, or whatever, directly to ISASC and not to me.

So much for now. Margie and I already are planning our trip to Germany next spring, and are looking forward to meeting a good number of collector-friends, both old and new.

Fraternally

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a stylized "S".